Abstract of the Invention

A headset having a built-in memory which may used to store any number of key parameters relating to performance characteristics of the headset, including headphone(s) performance characteristics and microphone performance characteristics. The performance characteristics of the headset are measured during production of the headset and stored in the memory for future use. The memory is an electronic digital read-write nonvolatile memory which includes a serial communications port. When the headset is used within a system application, a host adapter of the system communicates with the headset through the serial communications port using a micro-controller or micro-processor. The host adapter reads the performance characteristics of the headset and adjusts signals transmitted to and received from the headset in accordance with these characteristics. Additionally, when the headset is first used in the system application, the system preferences are manually set to a desired level and these settings are stored in the memory of the headset. When the headset is used again in the same system application, the settings are read from the memory and system preferences are automatically set to these settings. Moreover, the memory stores product history information of the headset including production date, serial and model numbers, and any service history (including dates of services, types of services, and any replacement parts installed).